



CITY OF FALLS CHURCH

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Falls Church City Council Approves Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

*Budget Fully Funds Schools, Invests in Infrastructure and City Workforce, and
Maintains Current Tax Rates*

The Falls Church City Council approved a \$69 million Fiscal Year 2013 (FY13) budget on April 23 that invests in infrastructure, continues to restore the City's fund balance, and fully funds the City schools. The real estate tax rate is maintained at \$1.27 per \$100 of assessed value.

"The FY13 Budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) are the product of a great deal of discussion and work and meet the critical needs of the City in these difficult financial times," said Mayor Nader Baroukh. "This budget and the CIP strike a healthy balance between the City's fund balance and the needs of City employees, schools, and services. It meets the Council's policy objectives including strengthening economic development and providing greater resources for infrastructure improvements to address items such as school facilities and stormwater management."

The budget invests in the City workforce by providing the first salary raise in four years. The 5.5 percent increase in salaries will offset the 5 percent increase in annual employee City pension contributions implemented last year.

The City Council evaluated the City's multi-year budget projections in adopting this FY13 Budget. With significant school, parks, and facility capital projects contained in the Five Year Capital Plan, the FY13 Budget maintains a \$1.1 million contribution to restore fund balance as a foundation for future investments in infrastructure. In its ordinance adopting the Capital Improvements Program, the Council called for the adoption of a 20 year School and General Government Facilities Plan by next fall, to guide the development of future capital improvement programs.

The budget requires no change to City tax rates for the coming year. The City's property tax rate of \$1.27 per \$100 of assessed value remains below average for the northern Virginia region. The tax bill for the average homeowner will increase by 4 percent due to increases in assessed value of homes in the City over the past year. Commercial real estate values increased by 5 percent overall.

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The FY13 Budget features funding for infrastructure maintenance and renewal, including:

- Completing the Thomas Jefferson Elementary School renovation.
- \$1.2 million toward stormwater system repair and maintenance, meeting EPA regulations, and implementing the Watershed Management Plan.
- Safe Routes to School transportation improvements.
- Park Master Plan implementation, including the renovation of the Madison Park soccer field.
- City Hall public safety improvements
- Funds for street paving were increased by \$75,000.

Additional positions funded:

- Two Planners in Development Services to complete Economic Opportunity Area Plans and facilitate the redevelopment of the City's commercial districts and grow the tax base.
- One Facilities Manager to focus on maintenance of the City's 11 government buildings.
- The City workforce remains 24 positions (or 12 percent) below the 2009 level.

To view the budget ordinances and watch the video from the City Council meeting, visit the City web site www.fallschurchva.gov.

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